

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 176602

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ORIGIN EA-06

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE PRIORITY

CINCPAC

USMACTHAI

DEPCHJUSMACTHAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 176602

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, TH, LA

SUBJECT: LAOS-TITLED MAP ASSETS IN THAILAND

REF: BANGKOK 14527; VIENTIANE 4950

1. IN REGARD TO LAO-TITLED MAP ASSETS IN THAILAND NOTED
REFTEL, OUR POLICY REMAINS TO DELAY DECISION ON THEIR
DISPOSAL. WE OBVIOUSLY FIND IT DIFFICULT EVEN TO
CONSIDER RETURNING ASSETS WHILE HARASSMENT OF OUR MISSION
CONTINUES AND PGNU ATTITUDE TOWARD US REMAINS POTENTIALLY
HOSTILE. MOREOVER, ITEMS ARE NO LONGER NEEDED FOR PURPOSE
FOR WHICH THEY WERE PROVIDED AND WE HAVE PLANS TO USE AT
LEAST SOME OF EQUIPMENT IN FURTHERANCE OF OUR OBJECTIVES
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PAGE 02 STATE 176602

ELSEWHERE.

2. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF
KRIANGSAK COULD TEMPORIZE WITHOUT RAISING THE ISSUE OF OUR

CLAIM. IF ASKED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ABOUT OUR POSITION, YOU SHOULD THEREFORE SEEK THEIR COOPERATION, USING FOLLOWING POINTS AS YOU SEE FIT:

A. OUR MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO LAOS HAS BEEN TERMINATED, AND ALL SUPPORT PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN FROM LAOS AT PGNU REQUEST. WE ARE THEREFORE UNABLE TO

CONTINUE REPAIRS AND MODIFICATIONS ON SEVERAL OF AIRCRAFT IN QUESTION, NOR ARE WE ABLE TO PROVIDE MEANS TO RETURN THEM TO LAOS.

B. IN LIGHT OF RECENT EVENTS IN LAOS, WE BELIEVE SUCH EQUIPMENT WOULD NOT BE USED IN ACCORDANCE WITH MAP PROGRAM OBJECTIVES FOR WHICH THEY WERE ORIGINALLY GIVEN TO LAOS, AND IN FACT COULD BE USED IN A MANNER HOSTILE TO THE BEST INTERESTS OF THAILAND.

C. WE OBVIOUSLY CANNOT IGNORE THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES IN LAOS WHERE HARASSMENT OF OUR DIPLOMATIC MISSION IS BEING COUNTERANCED, IF NOT ACTUALLY INSPIRED, BY THE LAO AUTHORITIES AND WHERE THE LATTER'S ATTITUDE TOWARD NORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH US REMAINS UNCLEAR. CERTAINLY, AS LONG AS THE TWO COMPOUNDS BELONGING TO OUR EMBASSY REMAIN OCCUPIED, AND RELATED ISSUES UNRESOLVED, WE WOULD FIND A RESOLUTION OF THIS PROBLEM EXTREMELY DIFFICULT.

3. IN SHORT, THE THAI SHOULD BE MADE FULLY AWARE THAT IT WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR US TO AGREE TO RETURN OF THE EQUIPMENT. KISSINGER

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